

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, ICNAF, GW, XN

SUBJECT: ICNAF - FRG HERRING FISHERY QUOTA VIOLATION

COPENHAGEN FOR FISHATT

1. BOARDINGS OF FRG FISHING VESSELS IN ICNAF SUBAREA
FIVE YANKEE (5Y) BY US COAST GUARD AND NATIONAL MARINE
FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) ICNAF INSPECTION OFFICERS
ESTABLISH BEYOND DOUBT THAT FRG VESSELS HAVE EXCEEDED
THEIR 1974 HERRING QUOTA OF ONE THOUSAND METRIC TONS
FOR THAT AREA.

2. ABOUT NINETEEN DIFFERENT FRG VESSELS HAVE OPERATED
IN 5Y OVER PAST FEW WEEKS. ALL BUT THREE HAVE BEEN
BOARDED TO DATE AND ACTUAL CATCH STATISTICS FROM THEIR
LOGS SHOW THAT THEY HAVE TAKEN WELL OVER THE QUOTA.
IN FACT, A SINGLE VESSEL, MOND BX 745, HAS TAKEN 1161
TONS BETWEEN AUGUST 10 AND 21. NMFS ESTIMATES THAT
ALL FRG VESSELS HAVE PROBABLY TAKEN OVER SIX THOUSAND
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METRIC TONS, A SIX HUNDRED PERCENT QUOTA VIOLATION.

3. VESSELS REPRESENT THREE COMPANIES: NORDSEE,
NORDSTAR, PECKENPACK.

4. INTERVIEWS OF FISHING VESSEL MASTERS INDICATE
COMPANIES ARE ADVISING MASTERS THAT QUOTA REFERS TO

WEIGHT OF PROCESSED HERRING AFTER FILLETING INSTEAD OF
ROUND WEIGHT BEFORE PROCESSING. THIS IS IN CONFLICT
WITH ICNAF REGULATIONS.

5. INSPECTION OF NAVIGATION AND FISHING LOGS ABOARD
KARLSBURG, BX 742, SHOWS DISCREPANCIES IN POSITIONS
OF FISH CATCHES OF AS MUCH AS 100 MILES. WHERE FISH
LOG SHOWS CATCHES IN AREA FIVE ZULU (5Z), NAV LOG
SHOWS ACTUAL POSITION IN AREA 5Y. SINCE FRG HAS MUCH
LARGER HERRING QUOTA IN 5Z, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO
EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF DELIBERATE FALSIFICATION
OF THE FISH LOG, SINCE IT IS THE FISH LOG WHICH IS
SHIPPED WITH THE CATCH AND WHICH BECOMES THE INPUT
DATA FOR GOVERNMENT STATISTICS LATER SUBMITTED TO
ICNAF COMMISSION UNDER QUOTA REGS. A SIMILAR SITUATION
EXISTS WITH HANNOVER, NC 474, WHERE SIGHTINGS OF
VESSEL IN 5Y CONFLICT WITH LOGGED POSITIONS IN 5Z.

6. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH APPROPRIATE
OFFICIALS SOONEST WITH ABOVE INFO AND FOLLOWING
POSITION: USG VIEWS THIS AS MOST SERIOUS VIOLATION
OF CONVENTION AND IS CERTAIN THAT FRG WILL WISH TO
DIRECT THE IMMEDIATE CESSION OF FISHING FOR HERRING
BY THEIR VESSELS IN AREA 5Y. THE USG ALSO EXPECTS
THAT THE FRG WILL THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATE THE VIOLATIONS
AND ADVISE THE USG OF THEIR FINDINGS, THE STEPS TAKEN
TO PREVENT RECURRENCE AND THE ACTION TAKEN AGAINST THE
OFFENDING VESSELS AND COMPANIES. KISSINGER

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